

To the High and Honourable Court of
PARLIAMENT.

C.S.L. 1. 114

REASONS Humbly offered by the several Manufacturers of Leather, against the reviving an Act for Transportation of Tan'd Leather, with Answers to their pretended Reasons for the same.

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Obj. 1. **I**T is pretended that Leather cannot be all manufactured here.

Ans. 1. That this Allegation is not true, for that all Leather of our growth and all that came from *Spain, Turkey, Ireland, Norway, Russia,* and several other parts was converted into made wares, some hundred of Years before Transportation was obtained.

Object. 2. That whereas it was affirmed, that if an act for Transportation was not obtained they must bury their Hides.

Ans. 2. Now it manifestly appears to all dealers in Leather, and all other Persons that will enquire the price of Raw Hides, and search the Register at *Leaden-Hall, London*, it will evidently appear, since the Expiration of this Act, That Raw Hides and Tan'd, have advanc'd four shillings in a Hide, and so have continued ever since the dismissal of the late Bill; which we humbly conceive is very considerable and absolutely contradictory to their false suggestions. And these our assertions being true, that Leather bears and hath born a better price in the time of its Prohibition, than in its time of Exportation, that then we shall humbly submit it to your Honours great Wisdoms, whether it be not a very good Argument for the dismissing this Bill.

Thirdly, That since the Expiration of that Act, all that deal in Leather, have found our Tan'd Leather much better Tan'd, and in all that sad seven years there was scarce any good Tan'd Leather to be bought, to the extream prejudice, loss and danger of all his Majesties poorer sort of Subjects, and to all in general.

Fourthly, That upon search made at *Leaden-Hall, London*, before this Act, in the Register it did appear, that Leather did bear a better price than it did in the time of Transportation, and that we have had not onely this time since the Exportation of it; but the experience of ages before, to confirm our Reasons alleadged against it; and therefore humbly pray that our Reasons may be weighed and former experience considered, and the poor Manufacturers minded, that, if the poors work be taken from them, how they shall be able to subsist.

Fifthly, That in this Bill that is carrying on, all have a liberty to transport, and under the pretence of selling only that they cannot transport, is intended liberty for all money'd persons, (as a great many already have done) ingrossing the greatest part of Tan'd Leather, out of the Tanners hand, buying it in their Yards, where it will be neither Searched nor Sealed, and then the Manufacturers forced to come to them for it; and the good old way of Markets endanger'd to be lost; as we find them now already very much impaired to the great detriment of the publick and manifest Losses to the dealers therein.

Sixthly, That how many soever are the Ingrossers thereof, they do no ways tend to the advancing the commodity, for 'tis only the consumption of the Commodities that tends to the advance thereof, there being nothing more consumed by their ingrossing but a private gain to themselves, which will be principally extracted out of the poor, contrary to the good old Laws and the constant care of former Parliaments, for the preservation of the poor.

Seventhly, It is humbly conceived, that none are like to be gainers by such an Act but some few of *London, Bristol, and French* Merchants, whom we have alwaies found to be the grand Promoters of this Bill.

The Premisses considered with much more that might be said we do hope your Honours will see cause to dismiss this Bill, which will be to the Encouragement of many thousand poor Families, who get their Bread by working of Leather.

B'side 1372